

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Computational data processing system, comprising:

an assembly of networked computers ~~(12, ... 22)~~ in each of which is stored at least one computational application, and

a data processing machine $[(10)]$ for storing computational data which is linked to the network and in communication with the computers, wherein each ~~(12, ... 22)~~, at least one of the computers ~~(12)~~ operating as master computer and at least some of the other computers ~~(14, ... 22)~~ operating as slave computer, characterized in that at least one of the computers $[(12)]$ comprises, stored in memory,

an algorithm (ClusterNtConfig) for configuring the other computers of the network as slave computers, [[and]]

an executable master application for managing the tasks of each slave computer as a function of their availability of the respective slave computer for [[the]] assignment, to each of them, of computational tasks and of corresponding computational data which are stored in the storage machine $[(10)]$,

an electronic signature, and

means for comparing said signature and an electronic signature of a slave computer with which it communicates so as to authorize the running of the computational application by the latter computer,

wherein said configuring algorithm and said master application are loaded into each computer (12, ..., 22) of the network, the execution of said configuring algorithm by one of the computers constituting a means of configuring the latter one of the computers as a master computer.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) System according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein each computer furthermore comprises an executable slave application under the control of the master computer [(12)] when this computer is configured as slave, for the local management of the computational application, [[the]] said slave application comprising software means for talking to the storage machine [(10)].

4. (currently amended) System according to Claim 3, characterized in that the wherein said software means for talking to the storage machine comprise means for exchanging data according to a file transfer protocol.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) System according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the configuring algorithm comprises software means for formulating a man/machine interface [(24)]

suitable for display on a screen of each computer for the configuring of [[the]] said computers.

7-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) Process of computation by means of a data processing system according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises comprising~~ the steps of:

defining at least one group of computers by configuring for each group a computer ~~(12, ..., 22)~~ as master computer and other computers as slave computers;

assigning, to each of the slave computers, one or more computational applications and corresponding computational data;

comparing an electronic signature sent by each slave computer to the master computer with a corresponding signature stored in the latter; and in the case of correspondence between the [[said]] signatures:

running, for each slave computer, the computational application or applications as a function of their availability, using the corresponding computational data; and

retrieving the data resulting from the execution of the applications carried out in parallel, in each slave computer.

10. (currently amended) Use of a computational process according to Claim 9 for the computation of molecular models on the basis of molecular data stored in a data server [(10)].